REMARKS

I.

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 44-72 are presently active in this application. Claims 1-43 have been canceled.

II.

Applicants note with appreciation the examiner's allowance of claims 56-69.

III.

Claims 44-50, 53, and 54 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Blonder (US patent No. 4,932,745).

Claims 51, 52, and 55 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blonder.

Claims 70-72 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

IV.

The examiner's attention is first invited to the rejection of claims 70-72 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The examiner rejected claim 70 as being incomplete. A portion of claim 70 was inadvertently omitted when that claim was rewritten but not amended in the response filed September 28, 1999. Claim 70 as it appeared in the response filed May 12, 1999 is included with the present amendment. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 70-72 under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 be withdrawn.

V.

The examiner's attention is next invited to the rejection of claims 44-50, 53, and 54 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Blonder. Claim 44 has been amended to set forth that the beam steering assembly has a steerable assembly for controllably directing the light

beam "from the steerable element generally toward a lower surface of the single substrate body." Support for the amendment to claim 44 is illustrated, inter alia, in Fig. 3 and described on page 5 lines 3-9. The lower surface of the single substrate body 14 shown in Fig 3 is the surface adjacent the element 16. The structure disclosed in the Blonder patent merely provides for directing a light beam along paths that are parallel to the upper and lower surfaces of the substrate S. There is clearly no teaching or suggestion in the Blonder patent for directing the light beam from the steerable element generally toward a lower surface of the substrate body as set forth in claim 44. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent claim 44 and dependent claims 45-50, 53, and 54 under 35 USC 102(b) be withdrawn.

The examiner's attention is next invited to the claims 51, 52, and 55 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blonder. Claims 51 and 52 depend from claim 44 and patentably distinguish over Blonder for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 44. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 51 and 52 under 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim 55 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 55 recites:

> a hinge for flexibly connecting the beam steering assembly with an upper edge of the upper cavity that is not coincident with the primary optical path; wherein the beam steering assembly includes at least one reflective surface such that the beam steering assembly is disposed within the upper cavity so that an impinging beam of light emanating from the primary optical path is controllably deflected in the same general direction as the upper cavity is facing and wherein a beam of light entering from the same general direction the upper cavity is facing is controllably deflected toward said primary optical path.

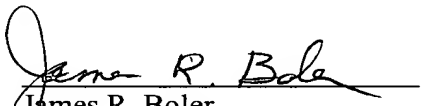
This structural arrangement is clearly not taught or suggested by Blonder. That is, as pointed

above, the structure disclosed by Blonder merely directs the light beam along paths that are parallel with the upper and lower surfaces of the substrate S. On the other hand, the structure recited in claim 55 provides that an impinging beam of light emanating from the optical path is controllably deflected in the same general direction as the upper cavity is facing and wherein a beam of light entering from the same general direction the upper cavity is facing is controllably deflected toward said primary optical path. Moreover, claim 55 calls for a hinge for flexibly connecting the beam steering assembly with an upper edge of the upper cavity. The mirror M disclosed in the Blonder patent is moved into and out of the recess MR by rotation about the ball bearings B1 and B2. Ball bearings do not provide a flexible connection as recited in claim 55. Therefore, the hinge structure recited in claim 55 is not taught or suggested by the Blonder patent. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 55 under 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn.

VI.

In view of the above remarks, applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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